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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/017,858	12/14/2001	Stephen Schleicher	21464-301100	7128

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EXAMINER

APPLE, KIRSTEN SACHWITZ

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3693

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/21/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/017,858

Applicant(s)

SCHLEICHER, STEPHEN

Examiner

Kirsten S. Apple

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/18/06
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

Detailed Action

This action is in response to the application amendment filed on 12/18/06.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner has read and reviewed all of the information provided by the Applicant. The examiner rejects as final claims 1-56 under 35 USC 102.

The Applicant attention is re-drawn to the following:

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ewald (US Patent Publication 2003/0014384).

Re claim 1 & 12: Ewald discloses:

A method & system for exchanging documents in a hub (see Ewald, abstract), comprising:

Storing an agreement associated with each document type for each partner that joins the exchange network, each agreement defines one or more rules about the data format in which the respective partner sends and receives documents of the document type (see Ewald, Figure 2, item 36)

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Placing file in receiving location – password protected (see Ewald, Figure 2, item 38)

Retrieving document (see Ewald, Figure 2, item 54)

Validating document against respective agreement (see Ewald, Figure 2, item 56)

Mapping document format (see Ewald, Paragraph 15, “independent of content and format” – it is inherent it would need to map as necessary different formats to make it “independent”)

Assigning a key to document for future reference (see Ewald, Figure 2, item 38)

Processing the document based on agreement – rules of hub entity and rules of first partner (see Ewald, Figure 2, item 102, 106 & 108)

Mapping document into altered format and sending to second partner based on agreement (see Ewald, Paragraph 15, “independent of content and format” – it is inherent it would need to map as necessary different formats to make it “independent”)

Re claim 2 & 13: Ewald discloses:

Agreement defines business rules – how to send, receive and format (see Ewald, Figure 2, item 102, 106 & 108)

Re claim 3 & 14: Ewald discloses:

Key is unique to document and set along with document (see Ewald, Figure 2, item 38)

Re claim 4 & 15: Ewald discloses:

Standard format is more flexible format, common rules (see Ewald, Paragraph 15)

Re claim 5 & 16: Ewald discloses:

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Common process based on agreement (see Ewald, Paragraph 15)

Re claim 6 & 17: Ewald discloses:

Setting up the agreement involved creating a document-mapping between a partner's native format and the standard format (see Ewald, Paragraph 15)

Re claim 7 & 18: Ewald discloses:

Previously joined partners need not duplicate mapping (see Ewald, Paragraph 15)

Re claim 8 & 19: Ewald discloses:

Mapping to and from is document-type-specific (see Ewald, Paragraph 15)

Re claim 9 & 20: Ewald discloses:

Document-mapping is created by using a graphical tool in a drag-and-drop fashion

(see Ewald, Figure 9)

Re claim 10 & 21: Ewald discloses:

Once created documents are stored in a database (see Ewald, Figure 1, Item 12)

Re claim 11 & 22: Ewald discloses:

Process is different by partner's business rules and policies (see Ewald, Figure 2, item 102, 106 & 108)

Re claim 23-56

The claims 23-56 are similar to claims 1-22 except that 1-22 refer to 2 partners while 23-56 refer to partners specific to a supply chain where the document is being purchased. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that these claim have

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similar limitation. Therefore, claims 23-56 are rejected based on the information provided regarding claims 1-22.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 12/18/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In particular, and respect to Claim 1 the Applicant argued 1st: Ewald is limited to use the XML document only and, therefore, is not adaptable to other document types.

The Examiner refutes the argument made by the Applicant and draws the attention to Ewald, Figure 2, item 36. The applicant is arguing that because Ewald describes "receiving semi-structured document in XML form that it could not be in another form. The examiner disagrees that because Ewald mentions one format does not rule out the use of other formats. In addition, the example of XML is itself a universal format that can be used by many format and the examiner would argue that it is inherent that the intension of Ewald was to use multi-format.

According to the definition of XML from wikipedia: "The Extensible Markup Language (XML) is a W3C-recommended general-purpose markup language that supports a wide variety of applications. XML languages or 'dialects' may be designed by anyone and may be processed by conforming software. XML is also designed to be reasonably human-legible, and to this end, terseness was not considered essential in its structure. XML is a simplified subset of Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML). Its primary purpose is to facilitate the sharing of data across different information systems, particularly systems connected via the Internet[1]. Formally defined languages based on XML (such as RSS, MathML, GraphML, XHTML, Scalable Vector Graphics, MusicXML and thousands of other examples) allow diverse software to reliably understand information formatted and passed in these languages."

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Furthermore, should the applicant be unsatisfied with the above argument the examiner would argue that the format type of the document is simply a matter of design choice.

Applicants argued 2nd, “the access control information is about controlling who has access to **view** documents received at the exchange.”

The Examiner refutes the argument made by the Applicant and draws the attention to Ewald, Figure 2, item 38. The applicant is misinformed about only having password protection on viewing the document the figure 2 clearly depicts “access control” to the “write dispatcher” (as well as the “read dispatcher”). Furthermore, should the applicant be unsatisfied with the above argument the examiner would argue that the applicant has proven that access control is a feature of this system and where it is employed is a matter of design choice.

Applicants argued 3rd, “deciding whether to give the second party access to another party’s document, as in Ewald is not the same as validating a document against a corresponding agreement having rules regarding the document’s data format.”

The Examiner refutes the argument made by the Applicant and draws the attention to Ewald, Figure 2, item 56. The examiner argues that “deciding” it is inherent that there must be set of rule associate with these decisions and what it is regarding is a matter of design choice.

In addition the examiner would like to note that while she choose Ewald as a solid prior art reference all of existing claims are Data Management 101 text book items and would read of lots of additional prior art. The claims need to move from the broad description to a more narrow form where the applicant believes there is a novel invention from existing portfolio analysis taught in an undergraduate Data Management 101 course. In doing so it is important to note that just automating something that is well know method done manually does not make it novel.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kirsten S. Apple whose telephone number is 571.272.5588. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Kramer can be reached on 571-272-6783. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-272-6126.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ksa

 3/19/07
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